GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3909
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002
EXPLORATION OF OIL AND GAS DEPOSITS IN NORTH EASTERN STATES
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures adopted for exploration of oil and gas deposits in North-Eastern States and West Bengal;

(b): the areas appear to be positive in those States for availability of gas and oil; and

(c): the measures Government are considering to make use of abandoned gas reserves in Tripura for commercial exploitation through long term plan?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar)

(a) & (b): North-Eastern States mainly fall in the Sedimentary basins of Upper-Assam and Assam-Arakan fold belt whereas West Bengal falls in the Bengal basin. Based on the geological information, the basins of Upper-Assam and Assam-Arakan fold belt have been placed under Category-I and Bengal basin under Category-III, indicating their relative degree of prospectivity.During IX Plan period National Oil Companies (NOCs) have carried out 6,203 Ground Line Kilometers (GLK) of 2-D, 12,614 GLK and 673 Squar Kilometer of 3-D seismic data and drilled 160 exploratory wells in the North-Eastern States and in the State of West Bengal.In addition to the exploratory efforts by NOCs, Government has offered 21 exploration blocks in North-Eastern States and 11 blocks in West Bengal so far, which include 4 exploration blocks in North-Eastern States and 1 exploration block in West Bengal on offer under on-going third round of New Exploration Licensing Policy.Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) have been signed for 4 blocks in North-Eastern States and 1 block in West Bengal

(c): The present utilisation of natural gas by various consumers in Tripura is about 1.2 Million Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD) against 2.0 MMSCMD of gas that could be produced as per the present surface handling capacity of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the State.The envisaged long term gas production potential from the fields of Tripura is 4 MMSCMD.At present, four gas based projects which are using gas in Tripura. Natural gas has also been allocated in favour of four power projects and one fertilizer project.